placed at grade pay of Rs.2800 in pay band PB-1 corresponding to their pre-revised pay scale of Rs.4500-7000/- on the basis of qualification and their duties and responsibilities.

(c) and (d) While approving the Report of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, the Government referred the matter related to the demands made in regard to pay scales of certain common category posts including pharmacists to a Fast Track Committee. On the basis of recommendation of the Committee the entry grade of pharmacists in Central Government has been kept at grade pay of Rs.2800 in pay band PB-1 and the same will be upgraded to the next higher grade having grade pay of Rs.4200 in pay band PB-2 on non-functional basis after 2 years of service in the grade pay of Rs.2800.

Common prescription medicines under scanner

1316. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some popular and widely used medicines given for cold and pain are under Government scanner on concesus raised about their adverse reactions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Concerns expressed by Parliamentarians and media about continued marketing of certain drug formulations like nimesulide, phenylpropanolamine etc. which have been withdrawn/ restricted in some other countries have been taken note of by the Government.

Public health spending

1317. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent study conducted by WHO whose findings reveal that India ranks 171 out of the 175 countries in the world in public health spending;

(b) whether there has been no increase in public health spending over the last few years, making the country overtly dependent on private sector; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to increase and efficiently utilize the health budget for enhancing public healthcare and tackling existing epidemics and new diseases such as H1N1 flu etc.?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) According to World Health Organization (WHO) no study has been conducted in the recent past, which ranks the countries by public health spending.

(b) and (c) As per the National Health Accounts India 2004-05 (with provisional estimates from 2005-06 to 2008-09), public spending on health in the country for the last 3 years is estimated as follows:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Public expenditure on health
2006-07	40678.86
2007-08	48685.21
2008-09	58681.38

The information on expenditure for the current year is not available

The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) aims to raise public health spending to at least 2% of GDP during the Plan period.

To increase, efficiently utilize the health budget and to support the public health system in the States, Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission in 2005 and this has an outlay of Rs.90,558 crore during the 11th plan period. The Mission aims to provide quality health services, which are accessible, affordable and accountable. It also strengthens the primary health care in the country.

The allocation for a number of other programmers for tackling existing epidemics and new diseases has also been enhanced substantially in the first two years of the Plan period. To tackle H1N1, significant amount is being spent during the current financial year.

WHO's warning on dengue

1318. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued warning regarding outbreak of dengue in the country, particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the preparedness in this regard;

(c) whether Government is also aware that with existing infrastructure it is becoming difficult for the Delhi hospitals to cater to the needs of patients; and

(d) if so, how Government is going to tackle the problem of dengue and also of H1N1?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise. However, Government of India is monitoring the situation and preparedness of the State Government including Delhi for prevention and Control of Dengue.

(c) and (d) Government has adequate infrastructure to tackle the problem of dengue and H1N1. It has been further strengthened both at the level of Government of India and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken following steps: